

OPAL Info. & Archive

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Are you a library trainer? Are you interested in using the State Library's Online Programming Tool (OPT) for an online meeting? As a service to you, the State Library offers use of its OPAL room. The OPAL (Online Programming for All Libraries) room allows up to 25 simultaneous users, includes VOIP, text chat, and co-browsing. All you have to do is install a safe and simple to use plug in called tcConference. Library employees may use the library's OPT in one to two hour increments. For an overview of the service and to schedule your session, contact Dr. Curtis R. Rogers at 803-734-8928 or crogers@statelibrary.sc.gov.

Enter the State Library's OPAL Room

South Carolina State Library OPT Terms of Use

Welcome to the South Carolina State Library's Online Programming Tool (OPT), which is a service operated through OPAL (Online Programming for all Libraries). OPAL is a collaborative effort by libraries of all types to provide cooperative web-based programming and training for library users and library staff members. These live, online events are held in an online room where participants can interact via voice-over-IP, text chatting, and synchronized browsing. OPAL allows library patrons and library staff members to participate in online library programs from anywhere. By collaborating within OPAL, libraries are able to develop online programs together and offer a rich array of public online programs for all library users. Examples of OPAL public online programs include book discussion programs, interviews, special events, library training, memoir writing workshops, and virtual tours of special digital library collections. Participating OPAL libraries develop and deliver online programs, events, and meetings using software from Talking Communities. OPAL is administered by the TAP Information Service, a company that helps organizations innovate.

By accessing or using the State Library's OPT, you (the "User") signify that you have read, understand and agree to be bound by these Terms of Use ("Terms of Use" or "Agreement"). We reserve the right, at our sole discretion, to change, modify, add, or delete portions of these Terms of Use at any time without further notice. If we do this, we will post the changes to these Terms of Use on this page and will indicate at the top of this page the date these terms were last revised. Your continued use of the Service after any such changes constitutes your acceptance of the new Terms of Use. If you do not agree to abide by these or any future Terms of Use, do not use or access (or continue to use or access) the Service. It is your responsibility to regularly check the Site to determine if there have been changes to these Terms of Use and to review such changes.

Eligibility

The State Library's OPT is intended solely for South Carolina library staff members, patrons, and South Carolina State Government Employees. The South Carolina State Library reserves the right to assess user fees at a later date.

Registration Data; Account Security

The South Carolina State Library does not collect any user data or account information with the OPT. No passwords are necessary and users do not have to set up accounts. Use is available by logging into the SCSL OPAL "room" located at <http://www.conference321.com/masteradmin/room.asp?id=rsc4d70d14f610>. Username is your regular name (either just first and last or first) and no password is required.

Users who are moderating sessions must first obtain instruction on how to use the service from a staff member of the State Library and upon such training will be provided with a moderator password.

HelpDesk

The State Library IT department will provide limited assistance in troubleshooting and assisting with the installation of the plug-in associated with the Service. For more information or assistance, email Ed O'Neill at eoconnell@statelibrary.sc.gov or call 803-734-8655. Mr. O'Neill is available to test OPAL connectivity for microphones, headphones and network. Please contact him at least 24 hours before your scheduled OPAL session.

Users may visit <http://www.talkingcommunities.com/tcuman/index.php> to access the online manual for the plug-in.

TalkingCommunities and tcConference

What is tcConference?

tcConference is an effective online tool used to conduct audio/visual meetings between two or more people without leaving the convenience of your office or home.

Who uses tcConference?

tcConference users cover a large spectrum of the business and organizational world. Several examples are:

- Higher education
- Governmental agencies
- Churches
- Libraries
- Governing boards
- Network marketing groups
- Large and small businesses

Why do organizations use tcConference?

- Saves time - alleviates the need for travel across town or between cities
- Saves money - No costly travel expenses or long distance charges
- Effective communications tool - meeting members can see the presentation and it allows for two way communication, both voice and text.
- Available to large and small organizations
- Easy to learn
- Reliable
- Available any hour of the day and night
- Cuts across time zones
- Presentations can be recorded and played back later so no one has to miss the information in the meeting.
- Is compatible with MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Can be used worldwide.

What is required to start conducting tcConference sessions?

- High speed Internet connection preferable, although not essential
- PC Computer using Windows Operating System
- Windows Explorer
- A PC microphone with headset or speakers
- A Talking Communities meeting room account
- A small installed plug-in prior to first time use

User Conduct

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Archives

- Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month (Septetmber 1, 2006)
WMA version
Facilitator: Curtis Rogers, Director of Statewide Library Services
Speaker: Ruth Thompson, DISCUS Training Coordinator
- Ten Great Ways to Use DISCUS in the Public Library (August 8, 2006)
Facilitator: Curtis Rogers, Director of Statewide Library Services
Speaker: Ruth Thompson, DISCUS Training Coordinator
- SC Public Library Leadership Institute Discussion (August 6, 2006)
Facilitator: Curtis Rogers, Director of Statewide Library Services
Speaker: Deborah Hotchkiss, Library Development Consultant
- How to use SCSL's New Website! (July 20, 2006)
Facilitator: Curtis Rogers, Director of Statewide Library Services
- Keeping Up so you don't get Left Behind! (February 17, 2006)
Important web sites and methods that can help library staff keep up with innovations in information technology, business information, Internet searching, web technology & design, as well as just some cool & new web sites.
Facilitator: Curtis Rogers, Director of Statewide Library Services
- Statewide Discussion of DuPage Teleconference (February 3, 2006)
Presented by: Curtis Rogers, Director of Statewide Services
Facilitator: Curtis Rogers, Director of Statewide Library Services
- OPAL Overview (January, 2006)
Facilitator: Curtis Rogers, Director of Statewide Library Service